

WEEKLY UPDATE

OCTOBER 8, 2021



Mountain Brook
S C H O O L S

MBS Parents,

Welcome to the end of the first nine weeks! We know this weekend will provide some much-needed rest for our students, teachers and staff. It has been great to see so many of our parents visiting our schools in recent weeks. While spacing is an issue, every school is making efforts to provide opportunities for parents to visit in a variety of ways. For more information, please contact your child's school.

This week, we have seen a decrease in the number of voluntarily reported positive COVID cases. Our district total number is not being reported this week as it is our practice not to report numbers lower than 20 in an effort to help protect the privacy of individuals impacted. There have been 24 individuals reported as a close contact and 4 of those 24 have been able to return to school due to vaccination status. While we see these lower numbers as a positive thing, several factors are reviewed daily that inform Mountain Brook Schools' response to COVID. It is worth noting that our goal is to move to mask optional as soon as it is safely possible.

Factors for Consideration:

- Recommendation by medical officials from the ADPH and the JCHD.
- Voluntarily reported local school positive cases
- Absentee rates at each school*
- Jefferson County COVID data including percent positive, hospital rates, and severity of the variant and spread
- Vaccine availability for our students, staff, and community

*We recognize that local, county, and state data is skewed due to personal home COVID tests available on the market. The results of these tests are likely not reported to the same efficacy as tests administered by medical professionals. Because of this, we have been carefully monitoring our absence rates throughout the school district. Every school has experienced an increased rate of student absences at approximately double what we experience in a typical school year. Please report any positive cases or exposure to your child's school nurse.

The Alabama Department of Public Health updated its 'Back To School Tool Kit' and that can be [read here](#). One significant note is that unvaccinated individuals who are excluded from school due to close contact with a COVID positive person may return to school after 7 days with the results of a negative COVID test. That number is down from the original 10 days. The Alabama Department of Education's COVID dashboard of reported cases can be [accessed here](#).

Next Friday's weekly update will contain more detailed information about our plans moving forward. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding these first nine weeks. We hope you enjoy your weekend!

GOOD NEWS

- + Construction progress is being made at MBHS, MBJH and BWF. [Watch this video](#) to see the progress from May through October.
- + MBHS recognizes [National Merit students](#)

GENERAL SAFETY REMINDERS

- + Use the [MBS Symptom Tracker](#) to help make decisions regarding school attendance should your child feel unwell
- + If your child is exhibiting ANY COVID-19 symptoms, they should not attend school
- + Facial coverings are required indoors at all MBS facilities until further notice
- + Maintain personal hygiene and distance (when possible)

SYMPTOMS:

- Shortness of breath
 - Cough
- Muscle/body aches
 - Headache
- New loss of taste/smell
 - Sore throat
- Congestion/runny nose
 - Fever or chills
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue

NOTIFICATION:

- + School nurses should be made aware of any possible symptoms and/or positive cases
- + A school nurse will be on-call every weekend and cases/symptoms can be reported by texting or calling
- + Please see our 2021-22 [Reopening Plan](#) for more information regarding screening, testing, school exclusion, and more